WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reprocessing of atomic fuel

441. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made a fresh proposal by offering to setup a dedicated safeguarding facility for reprocessing of atomic fuel before the US; -

(b) whether this issue has been discussed by the Prime Minister and the US President, who met recently; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the Joint Statement issued by Prime Minister and US President on July 18, 2005 several rounds of negotiations have been held with the US to finalize an agreement facilitating Civil Nuclear Cooperation. In view of our three stage programme and closed fuel cycle approach based on our need to utilize our vast resources of Thorium, the right to reprocess the US origin spent fuel was imperative for India. This is fully reflected in the finalized agreement with the US which indicates that India can reprocess such spent fuel in a national dedicated facility under IAEA safeguards.

Building of new heavy water reactors

442. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build eight new heavy water reactors of 700 MW each in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating those that are proposed to be located in Orissa; and

(c) the details of additional power production that would be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eleventh Plan proposals envisage start of work on eight indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MWe each, to be set up on a twin unit basis. Two units are planned to be located at Kakrapar (Gujarat) and two at Rawatbhata (Rajasthan). Site Selection Committee setup by Department of Atomic Energy has evaluated a number of sites including a site in the State of Orissa for locating 700 MWe PHWRs or PWRs with capacity of 1000 MWe and above. No decision has been taken about new sites.

(c) The annual Power Production from a 2 x 700 MWe station is about 10,000 Million Units (MU) of electricity.